

#31 April 1948

S O C I A L

SECTION 1 PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

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GENERAL

1. During April the various bureaus under the Department of Public Health and Welfare expanded a number of their activities, especially in the fields of training and disease control. One of the major accomplishments of the month was the outfitting of, and providing of welfare and preventive medicine teams for the refugee ship which repatriated stranded Koreans from Mukden via Tientsin. Training courses of various types continued to be conducted by the Bureau of Medical Services, and the Nursing Section launched a new training program for graduate nurses. Distribution of cholera vaccine and cholera control supplies to the provinces was continued. The vaccine was for immediate use in the three-phase cholera vaccination program, while the cholera control supplies will be held in reserve by provincial Public Health and Welfare bureaus for emergency use in case of an epidemic.

PREVENTIVE MEDICINE

Communicable Diseases

2. April saw no appreciable change in the generally low communicable disease picture, but there were indications that typhus and typhoid were on the decrease.

Cholera Prevention

3. Public Health workers were immunizing the populations of the five large seacoast cities, seven towns containing refugee camps along the 38° parallel and all myuns (townships) bordering on the sea and on the 38° parallel (see March SKIG ACTIVITIES). The problem of distributing the vaccine and supplies was partially solved by sending supplies to the provinces through provincial drug wholesalers. Smallpox immunizations were carried out in conjunction with cholera immunizations.

National Health Center

4. At the National Health Center the milk station was inspected by Department officials and found to be operating in an efficient manner. Sanitary conditions were excellent and an average of 120 infants were provided for daily. The pre- and post-natal and pediatrics clinics also were found to be operating successfully.

Mukden Repatriates

5. The refugee ship for repatriating Koreans from Mukden was outfitted and preventive medicine teams provided. The ship sailed from Inchon to Tientsin on 30 April. Arrangements were made by the Kyonggi-do Welfare Section to quarantine refugees in the provincial refugee camp at Inchon upon their arrival. A 14-day quarantine, including four days on the water, was planned. In addition to routine DDT-dusting and physical examinations on embarkation at Tientsin and while enroute, immunizations for cholera, typhus, typhoid and smallpox were to be carried out.

National Port Quarantine Station

6. The National Port Quarantine Station at Pusan was inspected during the month and found to be operating efficiently. A three-sided controversy among the Quarantine Station, the Kyongsang-namdo police and the Kyongsang-namdo welfare section regarding property rights to the Quarantine Station Building and the Boys' Camp at Shinsandal was investigated and discussed with all concerned. A satisfactory agreement was reached whereby the Quarantine Station and the Boys' Camp were to continue to occupy their present quarters and the police were to give up their claim to the Quarantine Station Building.

Training Course in Vital Statistics Methods

7. A five-day conference and training course in vital statistics methods for provincial and gun statistics personnel was conducted by Dr. T. S. Han, Chief of Vital Statistics of the Department of Public Health and Welfare.

MEDICAL SERVICES

Treatment for Lepers

8. The last shipment of UNRRA medical supplies, valued at approximately \$2,000, was divided among four leprosaria located at Yosu in Cholla-namdo, Sorakto, Kyongsang-namdo; Taegu, Kyongsang-pukto and Pusan, Kyongsang-namdo.

9. The 10th class for doctors and x-ray technicians at the Masan Tuberculosis Sanatorium was concluded. The classes had an average enrollment of from four to six doctors and x-ray technicians, with a total of 50 completing courses to date.

NURSING AFFAIRS

10. Beginning 1 April, a three-month training program for graduate nurses was conducted at three U. S. Army hospitals under the sponsorship of the 80th Medical Group and with the cooperation of the Department of Public Health and Welfare.

11. Arrangements were made with the Department of Pharmaceutical Affairs to have surplus Army nurses' clothing allocated by the Office of Civilian Supply for sale to Korean hospitals for nurses' use.

12. The following inspections were made in April:

a. Hospitals in Pusan were inspected. It was found that the Pusan Transportation Hospital remained in a poor condition, while the Pusan City Hospital showed considerable improvement.

b. Seoul City Hospital continued to show lack of adequate nursing care for patients.

VETERINARY AFFAIRS

13. Completed statistics of the government Veterinary Service for 1946 and 1947 showed a considerable increase during 1947 in the number of animals treated. The greatest increase was in cattle, with the percentage of recoveries quite high. This was due mainly to the increase in imported veterinary supplies received during 1947 (table 1).

Table 1. Veterinary Service: Animals Treated, 1946 and 1947

Animals	1946			1947		
	Number Treated	Recovered		Number Treated	Recovered	
		Number	Percentage		Number	Percentage
Cattle	26,302	23,264	88	34,591	33,703	97
Horses	2,923	2,429	83	3,938	3,214	80
Swine	2,407	1,991	81	5,806	4,627	78

SOURCE: Department of Public Health and Welfare.

14. The fifth in a series of veterinary bulletins published by the Bureau of Veterinary Affairs, which dealt with the fundamentals of horse breeding, was distributed to licensed veterinarians and to several groups interested in horse production. The Department of Agriculture issued 400 copies to provincial and county branches and to members of the Korean Horse Association. Agriculture Improvement Service distributed 160 copies and mounted police units throughout South Korea also received the bulletins.

PHARMACEUTICAL AFFAIRS

15. A total of 520,000 pounds of DDT was received in April for Military Government use. This DDT was made available through U. S. Army Malaria Control Units in each province, so necessary disease preventive measures could be taken.

16. One hundred thousand bars of laundry and toilet soap, the first shipment of this size received, were distributed in April to public and private hospitals, doctors and dentists.

17. The spring examinations for pharmacists, under the supervision of the National Committee for Pharmacists' Examination and with the cooperation of the Bureau of Pharmaceutical Affairs, was held during April, with 44 candidates participating. The examination was in three parts, with only two candidates completing the third and final phase. Five others passed enough to qualify them to take the fall examinations.

NARCOTICS SECTION

18. Seventy-four physicians and 31 pharmacists were licensed to handle narcotics after investigation by the Narcotics Section of the Department of Public Health and Welfare in April.

19. The Narcotics Adviser and the Chief of the Narcotics Section of the Department of Public Health and Welfare visited the Sun Hwa Hospital, Seoul, to inspect the narcotics ward and interview six addicts who were being treated.

LABORATORIES

20. Production of biologicals at the National Vaccine Laboratory in Seoul continued to meet requirements. Cholera, typhoid and rabies vaccine production was increased. Smallpox vaccine production was delayed because of budgetary difficulties.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

21. A disaster relief plan for the 1948 flood season in South Korea was developed by the Social Work consultant in cooperation with the Korean welfare officer in the General Relief Bureau. This plan calls for local community organizations to provide food, clothing and shelter to victims if any floods occur.

22. Provincial welfare chiefs and local welfare officers, in cooperation with interested citizens, completed a construction program including 10,053 semi-permanent low-cost family housing units throughout South Korea.

Table 2. Low-cost Housing Constructed from September 1947 to 15 April 1948, by Provinces.

<u>Province</u>	<u>Housing Units Completed</u>
Seoul City	806
Kyonggi-do	1,012
Chungchong-pukto	675
Chungchong-namdo	1,342
Cholla-pukto	1,201
Cholla-namdo	1,000
Kyongsong-namdo	2,086
Cheju-do	25
Kangwon-do	433
Total	10,053

SOURCE: Department of Public Health and Welfare.

23. Welfare officers from the Department of Public Health and Welfare inspected 10 refugee camps along the 38° parallel administered by the Bureau to study control and distribution of supplies and general administration.

24. During April five additional child welfare institutions were licensed by the Department, namely:

a. A new city orphanage in Chochiwon, Chungshong-namdo.

b. The Kochang Ei Yuk Won in Kochang, the Kulak Ek Yuk Won in Kaesong and the Namhae Cha Ei Won in Namhae, all in Kyongsang-namdo.

c. The Po Rin Won was opened in Seoul. This institution is sponsored by the Yang Nak Presbyterian Church and cares for 23 children from the Central Receiving Home in Seoul.

25. A grant of 300,000 won from the UNRRA Special Fund was approved by the Department to enable the White Lily Orphanage in Taegu to make additional space available.

26. Institutions were visited in Kyongsong-namdo, Kyongsong-pukto, Chollanamdo, Cholla-pukto, Kyonggi-do and Seoul to investigate requests for UNRRA funds to make improvements so that better care may be given and more children cared for. More than 40 institutions were studied by the American advisers of the Bureau of Welfare Institutions and Agencies during the month. After discussion with Korean welfare officials, recommendations were to be made as to how UNRRA funds would be used.

Kaesong Refugee Camp

27. Refugees from North Korea who cross the 38° parallel anywhere from Kaesong to the Yellow Sea are sent to the Kaesong Refugee Camp, one of the four major camps supervised by the Department of Public Health and Welfare, for processing and distribution to South Korean provinces. The Office of Foreign Affairs is responsible for interviewing and placement of the refugees (see POPULATION AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS). To the Department of Public Health and Welfare falls the responsibility for feeding, housing and clothing the refugees, as well as treating and preventing diseases. Since the camp contains from 500 to 1,000 refugees at a time, meals are served in shifts. The dispensary is located in one winterized tent. Here a doctor from the Department of Public Health and Welfare, with his assistants, examines each refugee. Another tent is used as a hospital for refugees with minor ailments. Because of the limited space and equipment at the camp, any refugee who is seriously ill is sent to Kaesong Hospital. Innoculations for cholera, typhoid, and smallpox are given each refugee at the dispensary.

28. Part of the food and nearly all of the clothing given the refugees during their stay at the Kaesong refugee camp (usually three or four days) is provided by Licensed Agencies for Relief in Asia and distributed by the Department of Public Health and Welfare.

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SECTION 2

EDUCATION

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GENERAL

1. Curriculum workshops in the fields of art, music, science, home economics and English were organized by the Department of Education in increasing numbers during April and attracted a large attendance of Korean teachers and educators. A radio program was introduced during the month under the sponsorship of the Nursing Section, while the Medical Section made arrangements to open South Korea's first model hospital ward, patterned after U.S. hospital wards. The Adult Education program sponsored by the Department of Education through local community schools, teachers, the radio and press has greatly decreased the amount of illiteracy among the adult population, according to recent surveys.

BUREAU OF RESEARCH AND SPECIAL SUBJECTS

2. The keynote of the education program in Korea is democratic education at local community levels. The Adult Education program ties the young and old alike to their local school, making it the center of community interest and a powerful factor in personal, social, cultural and economic betterment. The local community schools and teachers are conducting this program and, through their aid and the aid of other public leaders in local communities all over South Korea, illiteracy among the adult population has been greatly reduced, as shown in tables 1, 2 and 3.

Table 1. Literacy Trends in South Korea
August 1945 to August 1947

Date	Estimated population (13 years of age or more)	% of literacy
31 August 1945	10,255,960	21
31 August 1946	13,087,905	58
31 August 1947	13,320,913	71

SOURCE: Bureau of Research and Special Education,
Department of Education.